



Conservation Security Program

Fact Sheet

Program Implementation in Texas

Conservation Security Program Overview

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers that are implementing conservation on America's working lands. CSP is a voluntary program based on conservation accomplishments that recognizes the contributions of the best land stewards and encourages them to do more.

Watershed Approach

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is implementing CSP on a watershed basis due to restraints on both program and technical assistance funding in 2004. Focusing on high priority watersheds will allow NRCS to provide quality service to more applicants than if the program was implemented nationwide. Priority watersheds were selected based on the following criteria:

- Wide variety of land uses and input intensities
 - High-priority resource issues to be addressed
 - History of good land stewardship
 - Availability of necessary technical tools
 - Availability of NRCS staff to implement CSP
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Hondo Watershed

CSP is being offered in 18 watersheds in 22 states across the country – two of which were selected in Texas for fiscal year 2004. The Hondo Watershed in southwest Texas covers an estimated 679,300 acres within portions of Bandera, Uvalde, Frio and Medina counties. The watershed area is a combination of the Edwards Plateau and Rio Grande Plains resource areas consisting of rangeland, dry cropland, irrigated cropland, and pastureland as its major land uses.

The map on the following page outlines the general watershed area. Producers in parts of these counties may qualify to participate in the program.

For More Information

For more information about CSP, visit your local USDA Service Center, listed in your local directory under U.S. Department of Agriculture or contact Phillip Wright, Hondo Watershed Manager at (830) 426-3198. Information is available at

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html>.

The CSP interim final rule with request for public comments was published in the Federal Register on June 9, 2004. The comment period is open for 90 days. By issuing this rule, the NRCS can conduct the program sign-up and implementation this fiscal year. The CSP interim final rule is available at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/CSP_Interim_Final_Rule6.14.pdf.

According to the interim rule, all CSP applications that meet the minimum soil and water quality criteria will be placed in an enrollment category. The Secretary of Agriculture will select the highest ranking categories to be funded.



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Hondo Watershed

